

does it mean? What has the hon. gentleman done for the people of the Territories? Why, last year he insisted upon the retention of the appointees in the territorial legislature, who are appointees of the Crown. The hon. gentleman did not dare wholly to trust the people of the North-West, for two years ago he proposed to increase the number of nominated members. Now, because the people have elected from these Territories four representatives to this Chamber, the hon. gentleman thinks it necessary that the Government should appoint two of their friends to the other House. At the present time we know, Sir, that financially this country is in straightened circumstances; we know that the extravagance of the Government has largely increased the public debt, and increased the public burden. We know that the hon. gentleman had to dismiss from office his Finance Minister, and to recall a former colleague from the other side of the Atlantic to take charge of the financial affairs of the Government; and in these circumstances, the hon. gentleman proposes further to add to the public burdens by appointing two supporters of the Administration to seats in the Senate. I am quite certain that the public opinion of this country is anxious for a reform in that Chamber, that the public opinion of this country is in favor of taking out of the hands of the Crown the appointment of members to the second chamber. That being the case, I think the hon. gentleman should retrace his steps, he should refrain from the exercise of the power which he asks by this particular measure, and he had better wait a while until he sees what the public are disposed to do with reference to the reconstitution of that body.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The hon. gentleman has evidently got some unholy design against the Senate, and I have no doubt he will carry it out when he becomes a Minister. You see how naturally the hon. gentleman's mind runs towards gerrymandering. We are charged with gerrymandering this House; so he suggests that if he comes in he will gerrymander the Upper House by putting in forty of his friends as senators. Well, I shall give the hon. gentleman full liberty, when he gets on this side, to put forty senators in the Upper House from the North-West. The hon. gentleman always looks towards the United States for his model, and because the Territories of the United States have no representation at Washington, he says therefore we ought not to give it here. They have no representation; they can send two men to make speeches, to sit on the floor of the House of Representatives, and to explain the interests of the people of the Territory—in other words, instead of sending in petitions and papers, to be there on the spot and state verbally what the Territory wants. Now, if my memory does not fail me, the hon. gentlemen opposite—I cannot speak from recollection of the hon. gentleman himself—some of the hon. gentlemen opposite in the last Parliament spoke very strongly in favor of giving representation in this House in the British sense and not in the American sense. Well, we did so, we gave them four members. There was a feeling which I have discerned—and I think I know as much about it as the hon. gentleman—that the Territories did not want to be in any respect in an inferior position from the Provinces, and that they should have representation in both Houses. The hon. gentleman says that this country is not in favor of a nominated Senate. Well, we have just come from the people, Mr. Speaker; we know what the people want, what they have been thinking about. I have been over a very considerable portion of the Province of Ontario, and sometimes my exertions in educating the people to good Conservatism were not exactly successful. But I have never met either a Conservative or a Reformer during my tour that ever brought up the subject of the Senate at all. It is not a burning ques-

tion, it is not a question at all among the public; it is only by speculative political philosophers that this question is sought to be brought into importance by being discussed here. But the hon. gentleman said that this Act will do away with the balance of power in the Senate. If we look at the British North America Act we will see that that Act was applicable only to the older Provinces, and that the Maritime Provinces had 12 senators, Quebec 12, Ontario 12; but that did not prevent us from afterwards giving representation in the Senate to British Columbia and to Manitoba. I do not think the balance of power has been in any way disturbed by those Provinces being represented in the Senate, although there was no allusion to them, especially Manitoba, in the Act, but I think there was in regard to British Columbia, and certainly as to Prince Edward Island. British Columbia, however, got its representation in both Houses, as did Manitoba, and this is simply a Bill to give the Territories representation in both Houses. If there is going to be any change in the constitution of the Senate it will, of course, apply to the senators from the North-West Territories as well as to those from the rest of the Dominion. If the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) carries out his system of having an elective instead of a nominative Senate, or if the Senate is to be annihilated, of course, in such an event there will be no more senators from the North-West. As to the argument that the revenues of the country are going to be overtaxed by paying the parliamentary allowance to two members of the Senate from the North-West, I think it is a rather small objection to a constitutional Act of this kind which is done for the purpose of placing the North-West Provinces on an equality in every respect with the old Provinces. I think it is too small an addition to our expenses to be worthy of allusion. If the enquiring minds of hon. gentlemen opposite would allow them to consider the question of economy in moving for returns, a judicious economy in the expenditure for that purpose, it would enable us to give the North-West Territories a dozen senators instead of two.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I do not think any hon. gentleman on this side of the House has the slightest objection to these Territories being represented in due proportion to the number of their inhabitants. If we have any objection at all, it is an objection which goes much further than the North-West Territories, and the objection is a very well-founded and well-grounded one; it is to any small number of people in any part of the Dominion having a representation on the floor of this House many fold in excess of what their number would entitle them. One of the fundamental features of our federal compact was that each Province should be represented here in proportion to its numbers. That fundamental feature the hon. gentleman, and I think inadvisedly and unwisely, has repeatedly violated. Perhaps one of the least objectionable violations is in regard to these North-West Territories, because we may hope, in spite of the exceedingly unfortunate results that have so far attended the exertions of the Government in settling those Territories, that a better day may dawn for them, and they may within a moderate number of years acquire a population entitling them to four representatives on the floor of this House. I have seen so much in the past few years of the very great misfortune which has befallen this country from the extreme ignorance of responsible Ministers about that country, that I am glad to see anyone here who can speak with knowledge as to the affairs of the North-West, as I have no doubt my hon. friend can do. Although I have no doubt the hon. gentleman will be able to obtain a couple of gentlemen in the North-West willing to take one thousand dollars a year and their mileage, the same objection which I stated applies as to the disproportion of representation to population in the representation which the hon. gentleman proposes to give the North-West Territories in the Senate.